

Message Text

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14

ACTION AGR-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 H-03 SS-07 NSC-06 /027 W

----- 039634

R 241344Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5103

UNCLAS BELGRADE 6777

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FAS AND ERS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR OVIP

SUBJ: AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

REF: STATE 300787

1. WHILE THE STRUCTURE OF YUGOSLAVIA'S AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
SYSTEM VARIES BETWEEN REPUBLICS, THE FOLLOWING TABLE GIVES OVERVIEW
OF
THE SYSTEM:

NO. OF SCHOOLS	NO. OF STUDENTS	NO. OF TEACHERS	
AGR MIDDLE SCHOOLS (VO-AGR HIGH SCHOOLS	49	9,727	245
HIGH SCHOOLS (2 YEAR-JUNIOR COLLEGE)	8	1,491	160
FACULTIES OF AGR (COLLEGE-4 YEARS)	10	9,385	687

BOTH NUMBERS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS (ANALAGOUS TO U.S. VOCATIONAL-

AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOLS) AND NUMBERS OF STUDENTS HAVE BEEN
DECLINING IN RECENT YEARS. TWO YEAR AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES
COOPERATE WITH THE SOCIAL SECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND ATTEMPT
TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH BASIC SKILLS REQUIRED FOR LARGE KOMBINATS.
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TWO YEAR COLLEGES AND THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF FACULTIES OF AGRI-

CULTURE ARE CONSIDERED EQUAL. THE FOUR YEAR COLLEGES ARE ENGAGED IN PROVIDING SPECIALIZED EDUCATION IN SUCH TECHNICAL FIELDS AS MECHANIZATION, AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, PROCESSING, PLANT PROTECTION, VETERINARY MEDICINE, ETC. FOLLOWING GRADUATION, A COMPULSORY ONE YEAR PERIOD OF PRACTICAL TRAINING IS REQUIRED. POST GRADUATE STUDIES ARE BROKEN INTO TWO AREAS: (A) ADDITIONAL EDUCATION FOR EXPERTS ENGAGED IN SPECIALIZED WORK IN SOME FIELD OF FARM PRODUCTION, AND (B) MASTER'S DEGREE FOR FUTURE WORK AS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS. A RATHER EXTENSIVE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO TRAIN FARM WORKERS IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR AND PRIVATE FARMERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE COOPERATING WITH SOCIAL FARMS. MANY AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIAL KOMBINATS HAVE SET UP EDUCATIONAL CENTERS TO PROVIDE PERMANENT TRAINING OF WORKERS. TRAINING INCLUDES SHORT COURSE SEMINARS AND LECTURES IN ADDITION TO FULL TIME PROGRAMS.

2. ANY EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM IS SOMEWHAT SUBJECTIVE. HOWEVER, MANY AMERICAN SCIENTISTS HAVE COMMENTED QUITE FAVORABLY ON BOTH CALIBER OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND SCIENTISTS IN YUGOSLAVIA. THIS IS PROBABLY INDICATIVE OF THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. ANOTHER MEASURE OF EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM IS THAT THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF FOREIGN STUDENTS STUDYING IN YUGOSLAVIA AND YUGOSLAVS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE ORGANIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN ASIA, AFRICA, AND SOUTH AMERICA.

3. WEAKNESSES - SINCE THERE IS NO STANDARDIZED SYSTEM IN VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS OF YUGOSLAVIA, EACH REPUBLIC HAS ITS OWN SYSTEM WITH DIFFERENT CURRICULAR LENGTHS OF TRAINING, AVAILABILITY OF WORKSHOPS, FARMS, EQUIPMENT, ETC. CROATIA HAS ABOLISHED THIS LEVEL OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION. CONSEQUENTLY, QUALITY OF EDUCATION CAN VARY SIGNIFICANTLY. IN ADDITION, JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE LOCAL SECTOR HAVE NOT KEPT PACE WITH THE NUMBER OF JOB APPLICANTS. THERE HAVE BEEN EFFORTS TO COORDINATE CURRICULA OF ALL FACILITIES OF AGRICULTURE BUT THESE REFORMS REPORTEDLY HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED. CURRENT TREND IN HIGHER EDUCATION APPEARS TO BE INCREASED SPECIALIZATION.

4. UNITED STATES HAS NOT HAD ANY SPECIFIC PROGRAMS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SYSTEM OF YUGOSLAVIA.
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HOWEVER, INDIRECTLY, THROUGH JOINT RESEARCH, EDUCATION OF YUGOSLAV AGRICULTURALISTS IN THE U.S., AND EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION, THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME INFLUENCE ON THE YUGOSLAV AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SYSTEM.

5. YUGOSLAV AGRICULTURALISTS EXPRESS GREAT ADMIRATION OF ALL PHASES OF U.S. AGRICULTURE- PRODUCTION, RESEARCH, EDUCATION, PROCESSING, ET. SINCE NO SPECIFIC PROGRAMS ARE IN EFFECT, ONE WAY TO INFLUENCE

THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SYSTEM WOULD BE THROUGH EXPANDED EXCHANGES BUT THIS IS LIMITED BY BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN PROBABLY BE OBTAINED FROM EASTERN EUROPE BRANCH, FOREIGN DEMAND AND COMPETITION DIVISION, ERS, USDA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CODELS, VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELGRA06777
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750448-0306
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751213/aaaaakpr.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 300787
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SYSTEM
TAGS: EAGR, OVIP, YO, (FINDLEY, PAUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006